

Maryland


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1861

House -- 1861-1862

EXTRA SESSION



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[Document I.]

BY THE HOUSE OF DELGATES,

JUNE 12, 1861.

Read and ordered to be printed.

By order, M. Y. KIDD, Chief Clerk.

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

IN REGARD TO THE

\$70,000 APPROPRIATION.

R E P O R T.

The committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the communications of the Governor and Adjutant General in response to an order of the House adopted April 19th, calling upon them to report to this House at the earliest moment practicable, what amount of the \$70,000 appropriated at the last session of the Legislature to arm the State, has been expended, and by whom expended, and whether any agent has been appointed by the Governor and Adj. General to disburse the said \$70,000, or any part thereof, either directly or indirectly, or to procure samples of arms, and if so, whether said agent was employed at the expense of the State, and if so, what compensation he is to be paid, and whether such appointment is authorized by the Constitution or any law of this State, and who such agent is, what number, kind and quality of arms have been purchased under said appropriation, of whom purchased and at what prices, and where they were deposited, and whether they were inspected, if so, by whom inspected, and by whom distributed, to what counties, the number and kind to each county, whether any of said arms have been seized or stolen by any individual or individuals, what number, kind and quality of the arms purchased from the \$70,000 appropriated now remain on hand, and where deposited; whether any of said arms have been condemned by the inspector or inspectors, what number, kind and quality so condemned, and what disposition has been made or will be made of the same; ask leave to report that they have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report:

The Adj. General states in his report that of the \$70,000, the amount appropriated in the bill, under the provisions of

which the transaction under consideration was conducted, \$64,415.05 have been expended, leaving in the State treasury a balance of \$5,584.85, and that the proper vouchers for these expenditures are now on file in the Executive Chamber.

Accompanying the report of the Adjt. General and Governor, among other papers, the committee find two documents—one containing proposals from Eli Whitney, of New Haven, Conn., to furnish the State of Maryland with 2000 rifled muskets of the Minnie pattern, and 1000 army or navy revolvers with the necessary accoutrements for each description of arms; the other proposal by the Ames manufacturing company to furnish the State with 1000 sabres. The terms upon which Whitney offers to furnish the arms and accoutrements named in his contract are as follows: "2000 Minnie long range muskets, equal to the samples furnished by said Whitney, and then at Annapolis, the calibre of said muskets being fifty-eight-one-hundredth of an inch in diameter, to be packed in cases and delivered in Baltimore, (cost of cases and packing and cost of transportation to be paid by said Whitney,) at his risk, subject to the order of the Governor and Adjt. General. The appendages to be as follows: 4 Minnie bullet moulds and 2 cone wrenches to every case of 20 guns, 1 screw driver and wiper to each gun, the price of the gun and appendages as above (\$15.00) per gun." "Said Whitney also agrees to furnish and deliver in Baltimore, at his risk and expense, 1000 medium army or navy revolving pistols, like and equal to the samples furnished by said Whitney, and then at Annapolis, at \$16.20 cents each, appendages included." "The above arms to be inspected at the factory by H. C. Hicks, and packed under his direction."

The proposals by the Ames manufacturing company are as follows: "One thousand light cavalry sabres of the last model, issued by the U. S. Government for \$7.00 each, to be tested, &c., and subject to the inspection of H. C. Hicks, to be well packed, and delivered at the port of Baltimore, at the expense of the Ames manufacturing company."

The committee find by an estimate of the cost of the above described arms at the price stated by the contracting parties the aggregate amount to be \$53,200. This amount deducted from the sum \$64,415, the amount reported by the Adjt. General, as having been expended, leaves the sum of \$11,215 unaccounted for in the report.

The Adjt. General reports that they (the Governor and himself,) had no agent for the purchase of the arms, but that H. C. Hicks was employed to procure samples, the contracts

being made by himself and the Governor. He further reports that after the contracts had been entered into, and the arms purchased, the Governor and himself concluded that it would be attended with less expense and more facility of transportation to the different companies throughout the State, to have the arms deposited in a warehouse in the city of Baltimore; and in furtherance of their object procured the services of H. C. Hicks, to act as agent to inspect the arms, and to forward them under orders from the Adj. General to the different companies, and to pay the cost of transportation. For these services H. C. Hicks was to receive the sum of \$500.

The Adj. General does not state, but your committee are brought necessarily to the inference, that this sum of \$500 has been appropriated to the use indicated, from the amount appropriated by the State for the purchase of arms. Your committee think the report of the Governor and Adj. General, not only an incomplete and unsatisfactory response to the order of the House, failing as it does, to give an account of all the money expended, but as clearly exhibiting an unwarrantable use of the public money entrusted to their care, by appropriating a portion of the same to a use for which it was not designed, and a deliberate violation of the law under which they acted, by entrusting the disbursement of a portion of the money, and the inspection of the arms, to a party not legally bound to them, or the State, and whose agency under the law they were not authorized to make or employ.

Further, in the adoption of a warehouse in the city of Baltimore as a place of deposit, when they were expressly required by the law to deposit the arms in the armories of the State, the result of which has been the loss to the State of 370 infantry arms and accoutrement, and 16 cavalry arms and accoutrements, the balance remaining on hand, not distributed. Your committee, therefore, recommend, in view of these facts, as an act of justice to the people of the State, as well as to the authorities concerned, a thorough investigation of this whole matter, by a committee appointed for that purpose, and that said committee have power to send for persons and papers.

BARNES COMPTON, Ch'n.
B. MILLS,
ROSS WINANS,
THOS. C. WORTHINGTON.

